

CLERK: Mr. President, I'm back to the committee amendments. If I may, right before that, Mr. President, I have a series of amendments to be printed from Senator Smith to LB 767. (See pages 1640-43 of the Legislative Journal.)

I'm now back to the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Further discussion on the committee amendments? Senator Abboud, followed by Senators Nelson, Hannibal and Hall.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I urge the body to reject the committee amendments. I think that the proposed rate reduction would be considerably less under the committee amendments. I think that Senator Wesely probably has a pretty good idea, if he wants to give back \$26 million I'll be happy to support that particular amendment. But at the rate these committee amendments are going, we're not going to be able to give back even the total of \$18 million. I don't think that that was the intent. I think that we want to give back a fair...give back to the taxpayer a considerable amount of money, more than what these committee amendments will allow. And I think giving back at least \$18 million is a step in the right direction. So I would urge the body to reject the committee amendments, let's give the taxpayers back more money. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I will be supporting the committee amendments, and I will tell you why. As far as the child care deduction I feel truly sorry for anyone that tries to raise a family today and needs that child care deduction. As far as the deduction for the elderly, that sounds good, good politics, but the very, very, very few people that qualify for that, and that is simply someone that is under 65 or disabled, 15 percent of their income, but to qualify for that then their social security and their other disability and income is taken off of that. So it sounds good, but I'm like Senator Schmit sometimes, does absolutely nothing except good politics. But the other portion of the bill I will not be supporting, and I'll tell you why. I have said I would work for increased state aid to education for...to recognize either property taxes, if you want it, or for maybe some adjustment in teachers salary, as